



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 6, 2012

Senator Joan Hartley, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Senator Eileen Daily, Vice Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Ed Jutila, Vice Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Senator Tony Guglielmo, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Janice Giegler, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee

My name is Ted Schroll and I am the Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. The Association represents approximately 26,000 career and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut.

Our Association wishes to comment on several bills on today's agenda. You will be hearing from many speakers who will elaborate more than I on these bills, but this Association wishes to submit our opinion of these bills.

SUPPORT

Raised Senate Bill #320 AA Concerning Fire Prevention Code Regulations

Our Association supports this bill. It is our understanding that this bill is necessary as part of the normal processes needed to update new regulations and delete regulations that become obsolete over time. Fire Prevention Code Regulations are continually under review which makes this bill necessary.

Raised House Bill #5378 AA Concerning the Maximum Surcharge for Enhanced 9-1-1 Service

We believe that this bill is absolutely essential. This bill is more than just increasing funding for/by the State. By statute, **ALL** funding received from this surcharge are used for the implementation of the E-911 system in Connecticut. The current maximum limit was set by the General Assembly in the mid 1990s. While I understand that this committee does not need any explanation as to the intent of this bill, an increase of the maximum surcharge (up to 99 cents) does not mean an automatic immediate increase in a subscriber's monthly fee to this level. This just gives PURA the flexibility of annual increases in the coming years as per statutes. As is known, it has taken from 1996 until now to push up to the current maximum of 50 cents. Upgrading of the current E-911 equipment is necessary now, but the State is not able to accomplish these upgrades because funding (E-911 surcharge) is not adequate. Additionally, it is expected that the increase will fund the Public Safety Data Network which will allow

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for the exchange of information among public safety and criminal justice entities. This network will become a very useful tool to be used by Police Departments, Fire Departments, Homeland Security, and Emergency Medical Services in this state. Please do not think of this as just another tax; think of it as a support emergency service **FOR** the citizens of Connecticut.

Raised House Bill #5380 AA Requiring The Display Of House Numbers

Our Association supports this bill. The numbers of anecdotal stories related to this issue are innumerable; delays of emergency service providers attempting to find addresses when time is of the essence. This issue is usually addressed by individual municipalities by ordinances but this allows for up to 169 different solutions. This legislation would allow for one uniform solution no matter in which municipality a person is present.

OPPOSE

Raised House Bill #5381 AA Concerning The Implementation Of The Public Safety Answering Point Consolidation Feasibility Study

This Association has a position on the Coordinating Advisory Board of the Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, so we have a very slight knowledge of the PSAP Consolidation Feasibility Study. We are very interested in the issue of PSAP Consolidation. Candidly, some of our members are in favor and some are opposed. We do know that this study was only received by OSET/DESPP in January of 2012. In our opinion, it is not clear that this study, and ultimately the information in this bill, could be logically disseminated by OSET and ultimately be implemented within this short timeframe. Therefore, while we certainly can support the concept proposed by this bill, we must **OPPOSE THIS BILL AT THIS TIME.**


ADDITIONAL

Additionally, there are a few bills on your agenda that we have an interest. We feel that we would be remiss if we did not mention these bills. They are all subjects that are of interest to the Fire Service. These bills are:

- **Senate Bill #327 AA Concerning Fire Safety Enforcement Officials**
- **House Bill #5383 AA Requiring Carbon Monoxide & Oxygen Sensors On Portable Electric Generators**
- **House Bill #5394 AA Concerning Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors And Alarms In Residential Buildings**

At the time of this writing, some of our members have some differences with some of the language in all three of these bills. We understand that these issues are being discussed as we speak, and look forward to being able to support language that is acceptable to the CT Fire Marshals Association and their members.

Respectfully Submitted,


Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association